

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

### *Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, Mahlon Gross was born on September 7, 1926, to Henry and Elsie Gross at Bowdle, South Dakota; and,

*Whereas*, Birthdays commemorate the first day of our lives, and we celebrate the birthdays of those we love as we recognize the joys and sorrows we have shared, the strength we have gained from the obstacles and hardships we have conquered and the small daily pleasures life offers; and,

*Whereas*, Mahlon graduated from Bowdle High School in 1944 and served in the United States Navy until July 1946; and,

*Whereas*, Mahlon married Arelene Schlepp on March 21, 1954, and to that union two sons were born, Timothy and Thomas, and they in turn were blessed with one grandchild, Christian; and,

*Whereas*, Mahlon began a 30-year plus career at the Bowdle State Bank serving as insurance manager, secretary-treasurer of the Board of Directors and as Vice-President; and,

*Whereas*, Mahlon is a member of the Bowdle American Legion, the United Methodist Church, where he was an usher and treasurer for many years, and was instrumental in establishing the Prairie View Housing units in Bowdle. His favorite hobbies are gardening, woodworking, hunting, fishing and he loves animals; and,

*Whereas*, Mahlon will observe his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday with all the good wishes, fanfare and celebration such a milestone warrants, as his friends and relatives gather to honor him and celebrate his life and the camaraderie of the day; and it is fitting and proper for the Governor to make note of this milestone in the life of a man who has lived an exemplary life for all to emulate:

*Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds*, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 7, 2006, as

### *MAHLON GROSS DAY*

in South Dakota, and I join his family and friends in wishing him a very happy birthday, good health and great happiness.



*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-ninth Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

*M. Michael Rounds*  
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

*Ch. Nelson*  
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State